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10-31-2012

**October 11, 2012**

The Daily Mississippian

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UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

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OFFENSE PREPARES FOR  
AUBURN DEFENSE

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THE DAILY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012 | VOL. 101, No. 38

# MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

## MAYOR DISCUSSES SAFE DRINKING

Oxford Mayor Pat Patterson met with members of The University of Mississippi Freshman Council on Wednesday to discuss alcohol safety.



CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

Oxford Mayor Pat Patterson compared drinking and driving to Russian Roulette.

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU  
thedmnews@gmail.com

Oxford Mayor Pat Patterson discussed alcohol safety and the consequences of misguided actions with the Freshman Council of The

University of Mississippi on Wednesday.

Patterson led an informal discussion and allowed students to freely ask questions and receive answers.

"I don't condemn anyone who drinks," Patterson said.

"I'm not a fool, I know the vast majority of you choose to drink regardless of what the law says."

After a brief introduction, Patterson told the Freshman

See DRINKING, PAGE 4

## Teen arrested and charged with violent threats on OHS

Thanks to an anonymous phone call last week, Oxford High School and officials were able to work together to prevent a potential Columbine-like situation.

BY JENNIFER NASSAR  
thedmnews@gmail.com

Joshua Pillault, 19, of Oxford was arrested and charged Monday with threats related to Oxford High School.

According to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice, Pillault is being charged with "threats to kill and injure the person of another" and making threats "to kill and injure individuals and damage and destroy buildings by means of explosives."

Oxford School District Superintendent Brian Harvey said administration at Oxford High School received a phone call this past Thursday from a non-Mississippi resident. The individual told the school that he had been playing an on-line game with someone and noted suspicious things.

"In (the game), there were some things mentioned and

threats conveyed about Oxford High School," Harvey said.

"Once that happened, the individual stopped playing the game and phoned Oxford High School."

The threat was for next year. Harvey said Oxford schools were quick to respond to the situation.

"At that point, our school resource officer got involved, and they involved the local authorities, the police, the federal authorities, the FBI," he said.

Harvey said everybody involved coordinated well, and an arrest was made Monday afternoon.

In a story from the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Pillault's intention was to "recreate Colorado's 1999 Columbine attack that killed

See OHS, PAGE 4

## Silver Em awarded

Greg Brock of the New York Times, who got his start at Ole Miss with The Daily Mississippian, will be honored with the 2012 Silver Em award this afternoon.

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU  
thedmnews@gmail.com

Mississippi native, Ole Miss alumnus and New York Times Senior Editor for Standards Greg Brock has won the Silver Em Award.

The University of Mississippi's Meek School of Journalism and New Media will be presenting the 2012 Sam Talbert Silver Em Award to Brock today at a noon luncheon at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics.

The Silver Em is annually presented to a journalist with ties to Mississippi who has an honorable reputation inside and outside the state.

"When he was at Ole Miss, Greg Brock was one of the most aggressive news leaders I've ever seen," said Will Norton, dean of the Meek School of Journalism and New Media. "He is truly deserving of this honor."

Brock, a 1975 graduate of Ole Miss and a Crystal Springs native, is the senior editor for standards of The New York Times.

He began his journalism career as a student journalist at Ole Miss with The Daily Mississippian and worked his way up through a myriad of newspaper jobs before joining The New York Times, including stints

See SILVER, PAGE 4

## JFK's daughter signing books in Oxford

Caroline Kennedy will be at Square Books at 4 p.m. today signing the book "Listening In: The Secret White House Recording of John F. Kennedy," for which she wrote the foreword.

BY HANNA JALAWAN  
hjalawan@yahoo.com

Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of former President John F. Kennedy, will be at Square Books today to promote a book that releases secret tapes and recordings from the White House during President Kennedy's term.

The event will be at 4 p.m. at Square Books to promote the book compiled by Ted Widmer, entitled "Listening In: The Secret White House Recordings of John F. Kennedy."

The book is a compilation of tapes and recordings from the Oval Office during Kennedy's term. Most of the text is dialogue between the president and with whomever he is speaking.

"(It's) definitely nothing personally scandalous," Square

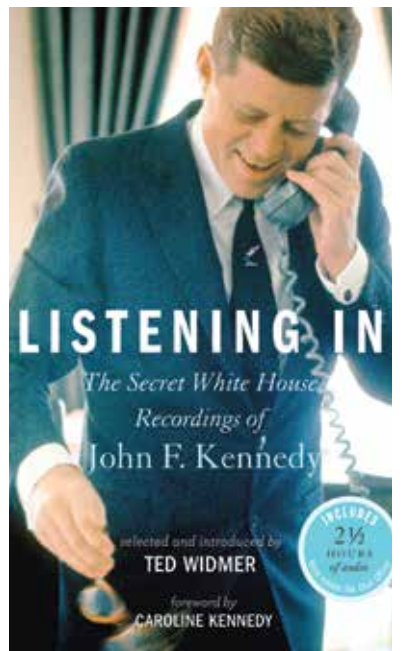
Books supervisor Beckett Howorth said. "Political, maybe."

The book also includes the actual tapes and recordings on a CD, along with a foreword written by Kennedy herself.

"She starts off talking about her entire life, (and) people telling her how much her dad changed their life and how President Kennedy's words and examples have remained important to everybody, young people especially," Howorth said.

Although Kennedy will not be speaking at the event, she will be signing books for customers.

"This is a ticketed event. You will need to purchase a book before 2 p.m. in order to have it signed," Square Books clerk Slade Lewis said. "We're expecting well over 200 people."



COURTESY SQUARE BOOKS

Caroline Kennedy will be signing copies of "Listening In: The Secret White House recordings of John F. Kennedy" today at Square Books.



THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN  
EDITORIAL STAFF:

EMILY ROLAND  
editor-in-chief  
dmeditor@gmail.com

AUSTIN MILLER  
managing editor  
dmmanaging@gmail.com

JENNIFER NASSAR  
campus news editor  
thedmnews@gmail.com

ADAM GANUCHEAU  
city news editor  
thedmnews@gmail.com

GRANT BEEBE  
asst. news editor  
thedmnews@gmail.com

PHIL MCCAUSLAND  
opinion editor  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

DAVID COLLIER  
sports editor  
thedmsports@gmail.com

MADISON FEATHERSTON  
lifestyles editor  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

CAIN MADDEN  
photography editor  
thedmphotos@gmail.com

QUENTIN WINSTINE  
asst. photography editor  
thedmphotos@gmail.com

EMILY CEGIELSKI  
senior editor  
thedmrecruitment@gmail.com

TISHA COLEMAN  
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KIMBER LACOUR &  
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LEANNA YOUNG  
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dmads@olemiss.edu

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COLUMN

What time is it?



BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS  
wphillip@go.olemiss.edu

First of all, I don't know anything about time travel. Or physics, or quantum theory, or string theory or the theory of relativity. What I do know is that if you give it more than two seconds' (let alone two movies') worth of reflection, time starts to feel really strange.

This was driven home for me recently as I watched "Looper" (Rian Johnson) and "Déjà Vu" (Tony Scott, 2006), starring Denzel Washington (fair warning: I'll be spoiling both).

In the first, Joseph Gordon-Levitt continues his evil alien plot of destroying all our nostalgia for "3rd Rock From the Sun" by actually growing up in yet another adult role – this time as hired assassin Joe Simmons. The movie is set in 2044, and forces from a further future, 2074, inhabit the film's present, which eventually becomes the past for Levitt's future self (Bruce Willis), who sends himself back in time. If that sentence is confusing, I'm doing my job.

In the other film, Denzel plays ATF agent Doug Carlin who signs onto a governmental task force that can access and interact with a digitally streaming past (always four and a half days ago) into which Carlin sends himself to save a woman and prevent a disaster, eventually arriving at a present that has already become past for the viewer, in order to change a future we have seen before.

Regardless of whether you like or dislike these films, one thing that they both expertly accomplish is making time visible to the viewer. This is one of the chief reasons, despite what their directors or critics may think, that these films are interesting and important.

For most of us, time as such is an unproblematic background – like air. We move through it; have useful concepts like past, present and future that make it feel normal; we treat it like a

substance: I never have enough time, I've got too much time on my hands, "time, you ain't no friend of mine." Like air, though, we never really see it. We don't realize its fluid dimension, the ways we've standardized it and made it strangely normal, until it changes: It stinks, it gets cloudy, or it suddenly goes missing when your older brother decides you should experiment with water as a respiratory medium.

By investing us in characters and situations that involve problematic time travel, however, these films make time visible like a flashing turquoise smog cloud laden with the angst of



GRAPHIC BY CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

teenage soccer days.

For instance, in "Déjà Vu," the time team has a "goggle helmet" with a heads-up display that allows you to walk around in the present while actually viewing the past. This results in probably the oddest chase sequence ever, as ATF agent Carlin drives through the highways and dirt roads of New Orleans pursuing the four-day old movements of a domestic terrorist while simultaneously negotiating traffic in the present. As Carlin trains one eye through the goggles and one on the traffic in this riveting scene, we get what French philosopher Gilles Deleuze calls a time-image, a cinematic image that shatters our normalization of time.

we like to unify our experiences, to think that the "me" I was at six and 16 is the same "me" I am now. In contrasting the two Joes so forcefully, the film ruptures this sense of continuity.

Such films also make time visible by eventually throwing us up against some kind of temporal loop or insoluble question. As one of my colleagues pointed out (stay with me here ...), when Joe-Levitt kills himself, he not only prevents Joe-Willis from killing the mother of a gifted child that had become a scourge in the future, he also ensures that this child will grow up to be a force for good. In the future this would create, Joe-Willis would have had no reason to go back to the future

in the first place. Therefore, in killing himself, shouldn't a live Joe-Levitt re-emerge under the retroactive influence of a future that had been intricately tied to his present?

The problems that emerge from mobility in time are exaggerated in "Déjà Vu," as Carlin's time travel begs the question of what would become of any "present" if it became possible to have mastery, not only over space, but time as well. Would memories endure? What would happen to the people of a former present? ("Déjà Vu" introduces "branching universe theory" on this count.) By going back in time, Carlin alters the future, thus ensuring that the "present" we have already witnessed will never materialize as such. Following from this, the secondary characters whose selves had been altered by their participation in the future we have seen, also cease to have been. The courageous scientist, the trusting FBI agent and the brainy techs still exist, but the possible selves they had become are obliterated. In both cases, the films lead us down the path of logic to its limit and then ask us to keep thinking.

While we could invoke theoretical reflection to hash out such issues, I don't think this is really what's at stake in time travel films. What's at stake is not a future in which time travel becomes possible, but our own present encounter with the fact that we perceive ourselves as bodies that move through space and organize our interaction to other bodies (sun, car, girlfriend, book, tree) by a concept we call time.

By evoking the time-image, such films question this "everydayness" of time; they bring us up against the limit or gaps in our ideas of time and renew for us the strangeness of our very real ability to travel through past and future by means of our memory and imagination. And perhaps they show us that the most shocking sci-fi adventure is that through which we swim each day.

Bill Phillips is in his second year of doctoral studies in English at Ole Miss. He is from Augusta, Ga.

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The University of  
Mississippi  
S. Gale Denley Student  
Media Center  
201 Bishop Hall

Main Number:  
662.915.5503  
Email: dmeditor@gmail.  
com  
Hours: Monday-Friday,  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Third party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER



COLUMN

# Twilight of the ideals



BY ANDREW DICKSON  
addickso@go.olemiss.edu

This past Sunday I saw Christian apologetic Larry Taunton speak at First Baptist Oxford. I approached him afterward to discuss the themes of his message, but he was busy greeting others and helping his Fixed Point Foundation sell DVDs he teased at during his sermon. He dismissed himself once those who were interested in purchasing merchandise had dispersed, showing no interest in speaking with me.

His sermon began with the teasing of the aforementioned DVDs, which detail BBC debates regarding science and theology. The teaser ended with a quote from Pascal: "When everyone is moving towards depravity, no one seems to be moving – but if someone stops, he shows up the others who are rushing on by acting as a fixed point." I will return to our dead friend Pascal's "point" in a moment.

In his message, "the world" was characterized by radical Islam and sex trafficking, while the Christian tradition was presented as the saving grace of mankind (albeit without mention of the sexual abuses in the Catholic Church). The Christian tradition stood opposed to "the world"; Taunton reserved the right to morality for his own religion and dismissed "the world" as being "lost" and "dreadful."

Mankind was defined as "basically evil" and in need of redemption. The alleged consequences for choosing a path other than the one Reverend Taunton offered were depicted as being woeful and

eternal. Appeals to scripture and conviction were made in abundance to "prove" his assertions.

I have three main objections. First, I reject that human nature is "basically evil." Instead, our nature is to love what we love at the expense of what we do not, but this is not proof of inherent corruption. I understand Taunton's commitment to the doctrine of Original Sin, but convictions soil reason – if he cannot explain how humans are naturally "evil" using common sense, I cannot accept it.

I'm also aware that for a Christian preacher to maintain his position, it is imperative that his followers believe their insides are evil – otherwise the need to feel redeemed is abolished and the priest loses his position. To quote Mr. Taunton's own website (Fixed-Point.org): "Those who get to tell the Creation story rule society." Make no mistake – Taunton longs to reserve the right to tell his story.

The second objection regards the notion that the Christian tradition is in sole

possession of the "true" or "correct" code of conduct. In nature, the conditions of existence are in a constant state of flux.

Therefore, "what we must do" to preserve our species changes as often as the conditions of nature change – an action that advances life at one time will negate it at another. It follows that we must be forever willing to consider new codes of conduct in the name of preserving the human race.

With the notion of an absolute conduct abolished, we begin to base our actions on cause and effect. For example, one might treat other human beings with respect and understanding; in time, other human beings will return these feelings of respect and understanding because there is a reason to do so.

If we were to formulate this thought pattern into a moral framework, it would read like this: "Approach other sentient beings with the same attitude you would have them approach you with."

As for Pascal's "fixed point," I argue that it reveals the na-

ture of all moral action: In Pascal's example, it is neither the scripture nor a supernatural force that "fixes the point" for others to see – it is man himself who creates virtues. Watch Plato blush as his perfect form of justice is reduced to nothing.

Last but not least, I refuse to grant a priest the air of authority unless he is able to supplement his convictions with reason. The scientific method uses trial and error to produce verifiable results, while the priest appeals to an "inner feeling" that is ineffable – his "proof" is the feeling his faith gives him.

But the feeling that comes from holding a claim to be true has no bearing on the ve-

racity of the claim itself. For the most part we find the truth to be cold and hard, as so much pride, so much shame – in short, so many convictions must be overcome before we can begin to think of living with the truth.

Though we disagree here and there, I would like to thank Reverend Taunton for visiting Oxford and allowing me to test two hypotheses – the first being that all gods are a means to an end; the second being that belief in life after death negates the value of life in the present moment – which is eternity.

Andrew Dickson is a religious studies senior from Terry. Follow him on Twitter @addoxfordms.

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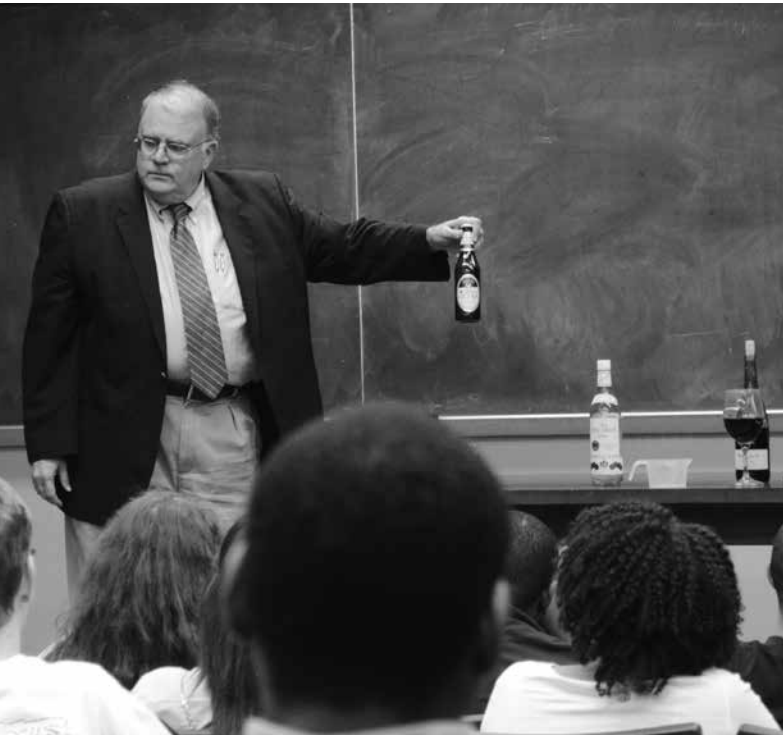
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Mayor George "Pat" Patterson talks with the Ole Miss Freshmen Council about safe drinking.

DRINKING,  
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Council of his personal experiences as a restaurateur and owner of a liquor store. Patterson referenced the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program (MASEP) in speaking to the Freshman Council about alcohol safety and the costs of underage possession, driving under the influence, disturbance of the peace, public drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Patterson also said students have the opportunity to claim one expungement of a charge of public drunkenness, disorderly conduct or the like. DUI charges, however, cannot be removed from a record. "We live in a college town, and I'm the first to know that," Patterson said. "You can wait one year, without having previous charges, and come to the court and have (the

charge) expunged from your record." Patterson warned students against making bad situations worse. "Don't pull out your false ID," Patterson said. "That's another charge. Never accept a drink from anyone else. If you don't know them or trust them, it's common sense." Patterson discussed what to do in the event of being stopped by an officer. "If you are stopped, don't panic," Patterson said. "Stupidity at these levels kills." Using the example of deceased Officer Robert Langley, Patterson turned once again to caution students against making one bad decision that can lead to tragedy. "Have a plan," Patterson said. "If you choose to drink, have sense about yourself. "You may get away with it once, but one night, everything can change." Summer Wigley contributed to this report.

VP debate shown live at Overby Center

Students, faculty and Oxonians can watch the vice presidential debate at 8 p.m. in the Overby Center Auditorium and listen to analysis from professors before and after the debate.

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU  
thedmnnews@gmail.com

The first vice presidential debate of the 2012 campaign season will be shown to students, faculty and Oxford residents live at the Overby Center for Southern Jour-

nalism and Politics tonight, as Vice President Joe Biden and Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan square off at Centre College in Danville, Ky. The event will be similar to the Overby Center's showing of the first presidential

debate this past Thursday. It will consist of the live showing of the debate and analysis from politics and journalism professors prior to and following the debate. Preliminary analysis will begin at 7:30 p.m., and the debate begins at 8 p.m.

SILVER,  
continued from page 1

at the Palm Beach Post, the Charlotte Observer and the Washington Post. "If someone was given a list of every Silver Em winner and were told to choose the most anonymous person on the list, I would definitely be chosen every single time," Brock joked about receiving the award. "On a more serious note, this is truly the highest honor I've gotten in my career." During his time at Ole Miss, Brock was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa and Who's Who in American Colleges and Universi-

ties. He was also named the Sigma Delta Chi Outstanding Graduate in Journalism after serving as president of the student chapter. "Brock was the managing editor of The Daily Mississippian at a time when most of the staff graduated and rose to top positions in newspapers throughout the United States," Norton said in a press release. "Greg was the energizer and organizer of that newspaper, and he edited Mississippi Magazine the spring of his senior year, producing an exceptional publication that covered major issues and personalities in the state. His savvy as a journalist was beyond his years, and his enthusiasm was contagious."



COURTESY OLE MISS MEDIA RELATIONS  
Greg Brock

OHS,  
continued from page 1

students and teachers." With the recent bomb threat hoax at Lexington Pointe and other bomb threats nationwide, Harvey was ready to take the proper steps to secure safety and overcome the situation. "These things can happen

anywhere," he said. "Given the nature of our society and the things that have happened in our society, everyone is concerned." Harvey said a significant role in these situations is reporting it when they hear something troubling. "We have to help students understand the importance of, when they hear something like this, we have to take it seriously," he said. "You can't

just brush it off. "Without the young man reporting this, we would have no knowledge of this." Pillault's arrest was a relief to Harvey. "We certainly wanted to eliminate the threat," he said. "We're glad the situation has come to some closure." According to a story in The Clarion-Ledger, Pillault faces 15 years in prison and federal charges of \$500,000.

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Pull-Out Section

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EDITORIAL STAFF:

EMILY ROLAND  
*editor-in-chief*  
dmeditor@gmail.com

MADISON FEATHERSTON  
*lifestyles editor*  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

KIMBER LACOUR  
*copy chief*

IGNACIO MURILLO  
*design editor*

AUSTIN MILLER  
*managing editor*  
dmmanaging@gmail.com

CAIN MADDEN  
*photography editor*  
thedmpotos@gmail.com

ADVERTISING STAFF

LEANNA YOUNG  
*sales manager*

MICHAEL BARNETT  
RYAN HERGET  
MEGHAN JACKSON  
*account executives*

dmads@olemiss.edu

S. GALE DENLEY STUDENT  
MEDIA CENTER

PATRICIA THOMPSON  
*director and faculty adviser*

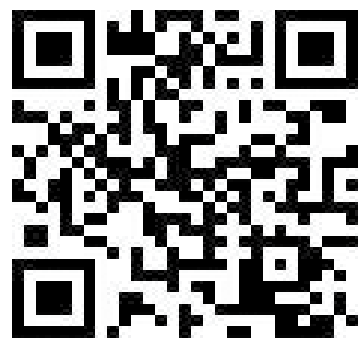
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activities at Ole Miss

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Thursday

**On campus:**  
Journalists to discuss the Future of Newspapers  
Overby Center Auditorium, 1:30-2:00 p.m.  
Harvest Supper on the Grounds of Rowan Oak, 7:00 p.m.  
Watch the VP Debate LIVE at the Overby Center Auditorium, 7:30-10:00 p.m.  
**Cicada:** BOOTLEG Shoe Event 12:00-2:30 p.m.  
**The Lyric:** Jerrod Niemann with Brent Anderson and Sean Patrick McGraw  
**Square Books:** Caroline Kennedy book signing, 4:00 p.m.  
**Proud Larry's:** Charlie Mars with Adrian Dickey

12  
Friday

**On campus:**  
2012 Distinguished Alumni Awards  
The Inn at Ole Miss Ballroom, 6:00-10:00 p.m.  
**The Lyric:** Zoogma with Higher Learning and DJ Smelly  
**Proud Larry's:** The Congress + Swampfoot

13  
Saturday

**On campus:**  
Homecoming Game: Ole Miss vs. Auburn, 11:00 a.m.  
**Proud Larry's:** Houndmouth with Swampfoot  
**Rooster's:** One Mile South

15  
Monday

**On campus:**  
The Ole Miss Yearbook Class Portraits, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
'Cuffed on a Bus at Ole Miss in 1962'  
Barnard Observatory Room 105, 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
Brown Bag: 'Women, Religion, and Agency'  
J.D. Williams Library Faulkner Room, 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
'Thank God for Mississippi!'  
Barnard Observatory Room 105, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

16  
Tuesday

**On campus:**  
The Ole Miss Yearbook Class Portraits, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Oxford Science Café: Quark-gluon Plasma!  
Lusa Pastry Cafe, 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Mississippi Innocence: A Film by Joe York  
Overby Center Auditorium, 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
**Proud Larry's:** The Dig with The We Shared Milk

17  
Wednesday

**On campus:**  
The Ole Miss Yearbook Class Portraits, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Southern Studies Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series  
Barnard Obervatory Room 105, 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
Workshop for Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell and Gates  
Honors College Room 311, 4:00 p.m.  
**Rooster's:** "Country Night" Tim Dugger  
**The Lyric:** The Lumineers with Paper Bird



COLUMN

# Weekend Wanderer: Soiree at Sand Rock

BY MADISON RUTHVEN  
mdruthven@live.com

For all of my long term readers out there (Hi Mom, kinda need some cash), you're well aware that most any time I take a trip, my lofty ambitions regress into a series of entirely underwhelming events and poorly planned antics. Then a thought occurred to me: Why should I have to plan all of this tomfoolery? We, as students of Ole Miss, have at our fingertips a valuable, mostly overlooked resource. Enter Ole Miss Outdoors.

OMOD is an organization focused around outdoor sports and adventure trips. Most people know about it and have considered going on a trip with them at one point or another.

It's just one of those things that lingers in the back of your mind, and eventually gets lost on the way-side in between striving for academic excellence and drinking away the pain of not being academically excellent.

Well this week, I'm here to tell you, it's worth it.

After a lengthy internal debate, I finally decided to pry myself away from the books and the bottle long enough to devote a weekend to, you know, other stuff. The trip I chose was rock climbing at Sand Rock, Ala., near Leesburg.

Led by Amelia Austin, Melissa Guirola and graduate assistant Tommy Willis, a.k.a the Daisy of the Mountains, we set off on Friday around three. After a five-hour drive chocked full of ridiculously awesome 90's music and shamefully awesome 90's music, we arrived at Sand Rock. We set up camp, got the lay of the land and hit the hay fairly early.

Saturday morning, we woke up at some obscene hour to watch the sun rise over Weiss Lake. As we sat upon a monolithic boulder, the swelling sunlight shimmered off of the clouds, illuminating the fog above the lake, creating an ethereal blanket that spanned for miles across the Alabama country side. I guess it was kinda cool, or whatever.

For the first climb of the day, Tommy and company set up four top ropes over a 40-foot rock face. We took turns scaling the routes, each one varying slightly in degree of difficulty.

If you're worried that you lack the skill to go on an OMOD trip, worry no more. The majority of the participants, myself included, were beginners, if not first-timers. Regardless, through the diligent instruction of our trip leaders, we all looked like pro's by the end of the day.



Students above Weiss Lake

MADISON RUTHVEN | The Daily Mississippian

The second climb was a 90-foot cliff with a breath-taking view at the top. It was quite relaxing, once I got over the fact that I was dangling pants-pissingly far above where us human folk are naturally meant to be.

The third climb of the day was hard. Don't talk to me. I'm still frustrated.

After those shenanigans, we were all exhausted. We retired to camp for spaghetti, campfires, s'mores and uber-gnarly ghost stories.

The next day we woke up,

broke camp and switched gears to bouldering, which is a form of rock climbing that utilizes crash pads instead of safety ropes. It's focused around short, technical climbs that take more brains than brawn. Just kidding, you have to have both, or you'll fail miserably.

It was difficult, but as the DM's own Josh Clark put it, "My favorite part was being challenged by things that were a little harder than what I could do. It was really fun to put forth the maximum

amount of effort."

Rock climbing is great and everything, but I'd be remiss if I didn't point out the real value of OMOD trips.

Alright, real talk. I don't make friends very easily. Never been good at it. Last weekend, I decided to step outside of my comfort zone and take a trip with 14 people I'd basically never known before. I put myself out there, and in doing so, I met some really cool people that I would never have had the opportunity to otherwise.

Given that half of the participants in our group were exchange students, I had the pleasure of gaining some insight into foreign cultures that I was previously ignorant to. By that, of course, I mean that Jose Ledezma taught me how to cuss and what to drink in Costa Rica (thanks, Jose).

That, in a nutshell, is the true significance of Ole Miss Outdoors: meeting strangers, befriending them and inevitably regressing into grade school-like discussions.

So if taking an OMOD trip has been at the back of your mind for a while, but things keep coming up, I'm telling you: get off your ass and do it. It'll be worth it. If you're worried about the price, this trip cost no more than a healthy bar tab or a nice bottle of scotch.

If you're interested in rock climbing specifically, a few people are pushing for an Ole Miss rock climbing club. Just email OMOD at omod@olemiss.edu and ask to be on the mailing list. Visit their website or drop by their office in the Turner Center to find a list of trips for this semester.

See you next time.

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# HISTORY IN THE MAKING

BY MARY B. SELLERS  
mbsellz@gmail.com

“I think it’s really interesting to think about something and see it come into fruition,” Courtney Pearson said, as we sat in the library’s Starbucks on a packed Tuesday morning. Pearson seemed to be the quiet nucleus in the room, greeting several people with a wave, while her schoolwork was spread across the table.

Pearson, an education senior, wore Ole Miss well, sporting a bright red Ole Miss shirt. She beamed at me with a quiet confidence, a steady eye and a general happiness. I now understand why the Ole Miss student body wanted her as their homecoming queen.

Her remarkable ability to transform herself to her surroundings, from rubbing elbows with Chancellor Dan Jones, to sitting patiently while a certain disorganized writer prods her for material; she makes situations better with an easy laugh and stellar personality.

“Courtney is a wonderful representative for Ole Miss as our homecoming queen,” Jones said. “It’s especially remarkable that she has led the student judicial process for two years and still has the trust and confidence of students for this high honor. It says so much about the kind of person she is. I am proud of Courtney and for Ole Miss.”

The chancellor was right: You can trust her. She is reliable, and, dare I say, nice? It is refreshing and admirable and something Ole Miss needs more of.

Pearson obviously has a head for business and strategy, but there is more to it than that. She is real, and funny, and someone you can enjoy having a conversation with.

“I’m not the average girl to run for Homecoming queen,” she admitted frankly. “I definitely did not come into college thinking about it. I had some things I wanted to get involved



in, but running for HCQ was so superficial that I would have never even thought about it. I guess it was kind of in the back of my mind from the moment Christin Gates ran two years ago, and she was unsuccessful.”

Pearson and her best friend-turned campaign manager, Adam Blackwell, came across the idea while trying to predict who was going to run.

“He turned to me and was like, ‘Why don’t you run?’ And from that moment, maybe, could I, could this be possible? It definitely took a lot of talking into. I had to consider that I could lose.”

Pearson came across as levelheaded and brave. When asked what the hardest thing was about the campaign in general, she said: “Emotionally, it was just thinking I was going to lose. That I had put so much work into it. So much money into it, and that I still could lose.”

Physically, she said the hardest thing was the sign.

“If you ask my campaign manager he’s going to say that sign. It was so big, and it was so hard to build,” she said. “If

you knew what we had to go through to get that done – we literally built it on the union plaza and it wasn’t meant to be moved. But of course since there was a football game, it had to be moved.”

She giggled at the memory of the logistical hardships they went through.

Her experience, to say the least, was surreal.

“I think I just really couldn’t believe I was doing this. When the pictures started going up on FB and everyone is changing their pictures to your face, you’re like am I really doing this right now?”

She laughed and shook her head. Pearson admitted that it hasn’t even really sunk in with her yet.

“My mom cries. All the time. She’s still crying. Every time I talk to her she’s crying,” Pearson said with a laugh.

Her mother, Cynthia McNutt Pearson, said she was born a leader.

“When she used to play school with her friends and family members, she was al-



PHOTOS BY ALEX EDWARDS | The Daily Mississippian

TOP: Courtney Pearson being interviewed after the election announcement.

See PEARSON, PAGE 5

## Become a Global Ambassador!

Volunteers to be paired with international exchange students for support, fun, and friendship this Spring. If you are a current University of Mississippi student who is interested in getting to know people from across the world and would like to learn about other cultures while helping visiting international students integrate into the Oxford and Ole Miss community, this program is right for you! Please follow this link to apply: [http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/exchange/student\\_activities.html](http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/exchange/student_activities.html)

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- 103 E.F.Yerby Conference Center
- [ecoveret@go.olemiss.edu](mailto:ecoveret@go.olemiss.edu)





PEARSON,  
continued from page 4

ways the youngest one, yet she was always the teacher – the leader,” she said.  
Her father’s reaction resembled his daughter’s: He still can’t quite believe it.

“I am awestruck that the university that provided me with two degrees in the last 22 years has progressed both academically and socially to the heights of being able to recognize a student for what they have accomplished during their tenure rather than simply the color of their skin,” said Pearson’s father, Commander Kerry L. Pearson, U.S. Navy.

“I am tremendously proud of my daughter,” he continued. “And equally proud of my alma mater.”

The fact that Pearson was elected the same year as The University of Mississippi’s 50 years of integration anniversary is an incredible and fitting coincidence. Also, this is one of many first steps that Ole Miss has been taking recently to better the university, and Oxford in general.

Ole Miss has always been a unique place, and now the world is beginning to take notice.

“It’s funny that 50 years ago I wouldn’t have even been able to go here,” Pearson said.

The thought is striking juxtaposed to how at ease Pearson seemed to be in the early morning hustle and bustle. We forget how different it was a mere half-century ago.

“And now the student body has said not only do we want (African Americans) here, but we want them to represent The University of Mississippi,” she said. “I think THAT is incredible.

“It’s not based on my skin color. I do not believe people went into voting thinking they were going to vote for me because I was black. They saw the person, based on the character,” she continued. “And it just so

“It’s funny that 50 years ago I wouldn’t have even been able to go here.”

COURTNEY PEARSON  
education senior

happened I was black.”

Aside from being excited and still astonished at her winning, Pearson was able to meet with and, to her excitement, get a photograph with James Meredith when she was invited to the chancellor’s box at the football game the Saturday after elections.

Kimbrely Dandridge, who was elected the first black female Associated Student Body president this past spring, is a close friend to Pearson.

“There will probably be a lot of crying on the field,”

Pearson said. “Me and Kim have been friends since freshman year. I don’t think either one of us as 18 year olds, said, ‘Let’s do this.’”

But they did, and they succeeded.

“She has changed the face of the Ole Miss Homecoming Queen,” Dandridge said. “Not only is she the first African American, she is also non-greek. She represents what Ole Miss is to the fullest. I am extremely proud to share this historic year with her, and I’m excited about our future journeys together.”

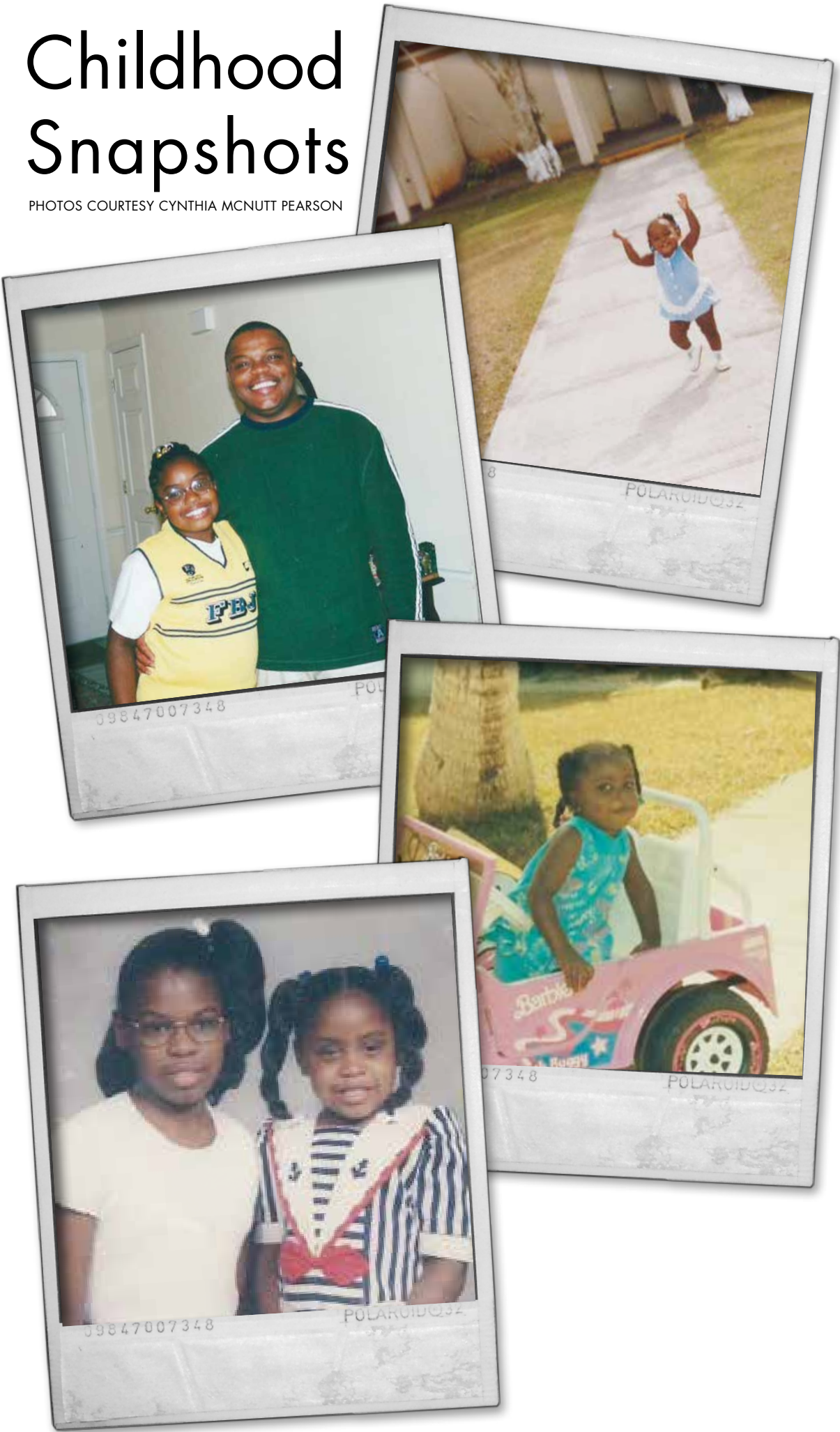
Homecoming Queen: it’s time to give this title some credit.

It is not about the title anymore, it is about who won it, and why it matters who wins it from now on.

Pearson is a representation of ourselves, and how this university has shaped itself, evolved into a place that is free-thinking, accepting and a place we should all be proud of to claim as our alma mater.

Childhood  
Snapshots

PHOTOS COURTESY CYNTHIA MCNUTT PEARSON



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HI, LIZ! TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY!

WELL, NOT REALLY, BUT I NEED CHEERING UP

CAN YOU JUST PLAY ALONG?!

AAAAND, SHE'S OFF THE GUEST LIST

BY JIM DAVIS

THE FUSCO BROTHERS

DEAR DIARY, ALL I DID TODAY WAS EAT, WATCH TV AND MAKE AN APPEARANCE IN "THE FUSCO BROTHERS." ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A PRETTY UNPRODUCTIVE DAY, EXCEPT FOR EATING AND WATCHING TV.

BY J.C. DUFFY

DILBERT

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "DOESN'T TAKE CRITICISM WELL"?

THIS IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE. I SAY ONE LITTLE THING AND YOU GO ALL NUTS ON ME.

AND THE TRAP IS SET.

BY SCOTT ADAMS

NON SEQUITUR

I THINK THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IS WORKING JUST FINE. BESIDES, BUYING A THIRD ONE WOULD BE A BOOKKEEPING NIGHTMARE

BY WILEY

DOONESBURY

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS, 1968. ... AND AS A MORMON, YOU'D BE GIVING UP DRINKING, SMOKING AND PREMARITAL SEX!

MONSIEUR, YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN FRANCE, NON?

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UNIVERSAL COVERAGE IS SUCH A MARVELOUS IDEA! IF I EVER BECOME A GOVERNOR LIKE MY DAD, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE MY STATE HAS IT!

YOUR PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT IT?

MAYBE! IF NOT, I CAN REPU- DIATE IT AS FRENCH-STYLE SOCIALISM!

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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			5				3	
				1				7
				6	4	2	1	
6			1	4		3	7	
	8						4	
	7	3		9	2			1
	6	8	4	7				
7				5				
	5				3			

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

INSANE

9	8	7	8	2	6	4	5	1
4	6	1	8	5	9	2	8	7
8	2	5	1	7	4	8	9	6
1	5	9	2	6	8	8	7	4
2	4	6	9	8	7	1	8	5
8	7	8	5	4	1	6	2	9
5	1	2	4	9	8	7	6	8
7	9	8	6	1	2	5	4	8
6	8	4	7	8	5	9	1	2

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ACROSS

1 Bath powder

5 Coin-flip result

10 Long-tailed animals

14 Tibet's place

15 Bauxite giant

16 Sufficient, in verse

17 Roman foe

18 Had status

19 Like most sportscasts

20 Cutting tools

22 River mammal

23 Scottish philosopher

24 Hockey structure

26 Einstein type

29 Ready for the prom

33 Dangerous mosquito

34 Hardly a wallflower

35 — excellence

36 Bear's pad

37 Dinnerware item

38 A kiss in Granada

39 Rapper Dr. —

40 Throat clearers

41 Golfer's yells

42 Self-satisfaction

44 Gauges

45 Rainy weather systems

46 Make turbid

48 Land of Sancho Panza

51 Artist's choice (2 wds.)

55 Northern Iraq resident

56 Pseudonym

58 Deviate

59 Type of eagle

60 Fake diamonds

61 Paul Drake's creator

62 Garden intruder

63 Globe feature

64 Starfish arms

DOWN

1 Rpm measurer

2 Between ports

3 Cheery tone

4 More appealing

5 Sheik's bevy

6 Buoy up

7 Circus routines

8 Forest grazer

9 Crestfallen

10 Unfroze

11 No future —

12 Bay

13 Basin adjunct

21 Attila's subjects

22 Curved molding

24 Splinter groups

25 Linchpin site

26 Loses hair

27 Buy new guns

28 Farewell

29 Stagecoach pullers

30 Wagner genre

31 Palette adjunct

32 Smelting waste

34 Make holy

37 Relieved sigh

38 Lose one's temper (2 wds.)

40 Presently

41 Acct. insurer

43 Coasted along

46 Gaucho's rope

47 "Full House" twin

48 Falsify the data

49 Undiluted

50 Handel contemporary

51 Seine feeder

52 "Tomb Raider" heroine

53 Air France hub

54 Hearty loaves

56 PFC mail drop

57 Resinous deposit

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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48	49	50					51					52	53	54
55							56	57				58		
59							60					61		
62							63					64		

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COLUMN

# The new and (mostly) improved Ninja Turtles



COURTESY NICKELODEON

BY JOSH PRESLEY  
joshpresley551@gmail.com

Time to beat a dead horse: remakes, reboots, re-imaginings, re-whatevers. There are no original ideas left and there is nothing new under the sun.

Having said that, I loved “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” when I was but a wee lad, and I still love them now, so I had no qualms about checking Nickelodeon’s new TMNT series, which premiered on Sept. 29.

Some of you might not be old enough to remember, but the Turtles were a big deal in the late 80s and early 90s. The cartoon series, the film series, the toys, the video games – there was a bit of a Turtle-frenzy there for a few years.

But then we started to grow up. The cartoon series petered out; the third movie was something I can’t describe without cursing.

The Turtles never really went away though, and a second animated series debuted in 2003 and was very successful. I didn’t watch much of it though. I had just graduated high school and didn’t think I had much time for cartoons. Plus, I despised the idea that the Shredder was an alien in that series, so I generally avoided it.

They’ve been trying to get a new movie off the ground for the past years, with little success. Michael Bay wanted to turn them into aliens, and fanboys/girls booed to the point that that idea has been shelved. But there was this other thing: Nickelodeon announced they were producing a new Ninja Turtles animated series.

I was skeptical. It was going to be CGI-animated, and early previews looked less than stellar, plus I feared Nick would make it too kid friendly. Turns out I needn’t have worried. Turns out, the show (or, at least,

the first three episodes) are pretty good. Very good, actually. Perhaps even totally tubular, dude.

Nick’s “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” has a little in common with the 80s cartoon, but there seemed to be a very conscious effort to really update the story.

All previous movies and series’ seemed like they were in obligated to reference that show in some way, and that really hurt them. I won’t list all the similarities and differences, but I will say that the Turtles aren’t aliens, they still like pizza, but they never once said “cowabunga,” that I noticed.

In fact the dialogue contained no catchphrases at all, and I can’t recall a single turtle-related pun. This isn’t your daddy’s (... err... older brother’s?) Ninja Turtles. But it sort of is.

The spirit is still there. If you loved the concept before, everything that you loved about it is still there.

The animation is top-notch, the voice actors are spot-on, the characters are engaging, the dialogue is just the right amount of witty and the jokes actually had me laughing out loud.

If the first three episodes (which can be viewed on Nickelodeon’s website or seen live on Saturday mornings) are any indication, the Turtles could be bigger and better than ever.

## FYI

NISOLO TRUNK SHOW

BY MADISON FEATHERSTON  
thedmfetures@gmail.edu


Nisolo Shoes, which launched last year, will bring their Southern Roots Tour to Oxford today, Oct. 11. Headquartered in Nashville, this will be their third of 10 stops this month.

The trunk show will be held at Buffalo Peak from 2 to 8 p.m. There will be a celebration starting at 6 p.m. The student body is invited to attend both parts of the event.

The entire product line, including shoes and accessories, will be available for purchase at Buffalo Peak.

Founded by Ole Miss graduate Patrick Woodyard, Nisolo is a shoe company that helps impoverished individuals in Peru by giving them the opportunity for employment. Woodyard was inducted into the Ole Miss Hall of Fame in 2010 and studied international studies and Spanish.

Follow Nisolo online and through social media for the latest updates: [www.nisoloshoes.com](http://www.nisoloshoes.com), [www.facebook.com/nisoloshoes](http://www.facebook.com/nisoloshoes), [www.twitter.com/nisoloshoes](http://www.twitter.com/nisoloshoes).



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# HOMECOMING WEEK ACTIVITIES AT OLE MISS

The Student Programing Board, Department of Campus Programing and the Alumni Association put on a myriad of events, including (pictured here) a mechanical bull ride, union unplugged events, a walk with the chancellor and bungee trampoline. The week will end with a Homecoming Parade from the Union Circle to the Square Friday at 5:30 p.m. The homecoming court will also be crowned at the homecoming football game.



QUENTIN WINSTINE | The Daily Mississippian



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# Harvest supper at Rowan Oak to benefit University Museum

The Friends of the University Museum at Ole Miss will host a Harvest Supper as a fundraising opportunity for the University of Mississippi Museum and Historic Houses at 7 p.m. today.

BY FRANCES ALLISON  
falliso@go.olemiss.edu

Friends of the University Museum will host a harvest supper on the grounds of Rowan Oak on Thursday at 7 p.m. to benefit the University of Mississippi Museum and Historic Houses.

The dinner will follow the annual membership party, where the Museum will celebrate the hiring of Robert Saarnio as its new director.

Saarnio is looking forward to his future with the Museum.

"I want to express the profound depth of my gratitude for having been entrusted with this major cultural leadership position within our great university and within this beautiful Oxford community," Saarnio said.

Tickets are \$125 and at-

tendees are required to RSVP prior to the event.

Elizabeth Heiskell Catering will provide dinner that will feature a seasonal menu including fresh, local produce donated by Woodson Ridge Farms.

"The menu will feature smoked ham, a great fall dish which was Faulkner's favorite whenever he entertained," said Dorothy Howorth, president of the Friends of the Museum board.

Live music will be performed by Alphonso Sanders and friends.

Saarnio said he is excited for the event and hopes to continue culinary ventures at the University Museum.

"A region's cuisine and culinary traditions are very defining of and contributory to its culture," Saarnio said.

"Food and art go together

beautifully as they appeal in equally powerful ways to our five basic senses. I am actively thinking about ways to introduce more food- and culinary-based programs to the museum's annual calendar of public events."

Emily Dean, program coordinator at the University Museum, said she is grateful for all of the support the museum has received this year.


"This is the first year of what we hope will be many years of the harvest supper benefit put on by the friends of the Museum," Dean said.

"The evening is such a wonderful opportunity for supporters of the University Museum and Historic Houses to welcome new Museum Director Robert Saarnio and celebrate the generosity that the Museum has experienced over the past year."




FILE PHOTO (PHILLIP WALLER) | The Daily Mississippian


The University Museum will host a harvest supper at Rowan Oak at 7 p.m. Thursday.



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# Offense prepares for Auburn defense, Johnson looks to break out

As Saturday’s contest with the Auburn Tigers grows near, the Ole Miss offense looks for ways to put the Rebels in position against a fast, physical Auburn defense. Sophomore defensive end C.J. Johnson also looks for ways to make more of an impact on the defensive side of the ball.

BY BENNETT HIPPI  
jbhipp@go.olemiss.edu

Ole Miss isn’t sure what to expect from Auburn offensively on Saturday, but co-offensive coordinator Dan Werner knows exactly to expect when the Rebels’ offense takes the field Saturday against Auburn’s defense.

“They’re really good on defense,” Werner said. “You look at some of their scores; they’ve only given up a couple touchdowns all year long, so they’re really fast and really physical. It’s going to be a real good test for us.”

Werner is concerned in particular about the Auburn defensive line that has recorded 10 sacks and accounted for a majority of the team’s 32 quarterback hurries.

“Their defensive line is definitely their strength as a whole,” he said. “They’re physical. Their two defensive ends are 250 pounds but can really run. The two inside guys are big, 320-pounders who are really physical. They just haven’t given up a whole lot of yards or a whole lot of points.”

Overall, he expects the Rebels to ready to play Saturday and says that there shouldn’t be a hangover from this past

week’s 30-27 loss to Texas A&M.

“As coaches, it’s tough for us, too, but we talked about it as a staff, and we’ve got to forget about what happened,” Werner said.

“Just like when we win, we can’t rest on that. When we lose, we’ve got to move on, too. Our motto, so to speak, earlier in the year was, ‘We can’t let somebody beat us twice.’ That week is over; we’ve got to bounce back and win us a game this week.”

**Baylee Wallace update**

After practice on Wednesday, Freeze had good news about Baylee Wallace, sophomore quarterback Bo Wallace’s younger sister, who suffered a broken neck in a car accident on Monday night.

He said that her “surgery was a long six hours,” but that the news afterward was good.

“They thought they were going to have to go in both front and back,” Freeze said. “They did not, which was good. It’ll be a long recovery, but they feel very good about everything being a full recovery. Feel very blessed, and thank God that it’s not worse than it is.”

“I think it’s three months (with) no (neck) movement, and then hopefully from that



FILE PHOTO (AUSTIN MCAFFEE) | The Daily Mississippian

Sophomore quarterback Bo Wallace point forward, everything will start moving fast to full recovery.”

**Johnson working on his game**

Sophomore defensive end C.J. Johnson has been disap-

pointed in his play so far this year. He has 31 tackles on the season but only one sack and two quarterback hurries.

“I’ve underachieved big time,” Johnson said. “I know there’s a couple things that

I’ve got to keep working on. They’re going to try to do a lot of chipping, so I’m going to try and prepare for that.”

Even in the midst of the season, he’s doing whatever he can to improve his play.

“(I’m) mainly (working on) my get off and adding some new moves, reading tackle sets a little bit better and sometimes rushing level at the quarterback, instead of getting pushed past the quarterback,” he said.

**Injury notes**

Outside of a couple injuries, the Rebels are healthy for the most part heading into Saturday’s game.

Freshman offensive lineman Justin Bell missed practice on Tuesday and Wednesday after suffering an injury to his lower back in the weight room.

“He’ll be OK,” Freeze said. “I just don’t know if he’ll be ready for Saturday.”

Junior wide receiver Korvic Neat continues to practice as he works his way back from a groin injury. Freeze said the receiver was about “85 percent” healthy after practice and that “he’ll try to go” Saturday.

*For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @thedm\_sports and @bennetthipp on Twitter.*

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The Ole Miss

Class Portraits

Photo taken from the 1983 Ole Miss Yearbook

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## Soccer looks to get on a roll

After suffering three straight losses, the Ole Miss women's soccer team got back in the win column this past Sunday against Kentucky at home, and now Ole Miss looks to keep the momentum going as it hits the road for a pair of SEC matches at Vanderbilt and South Carolina.

BY JAKE THOMPSON  
jthomps@go.olemiss.edu

The Ole Miss women's soccer team returns to the road yet again this weekend as it plays at Vanderbilt on Friday night and South Carolina on Sunday night.

After splitting against Georgia and Kentucky at home this past weekend, Ole Miss (10-5, 3-5 SEC) remains in the hunt for a spot in the Southeastern Conference Tournament later this month in Orange Beach, Ala. With five matches remaining, the team knows that if it can perform well, it will earn a spot to play in the conference tournament and possibly extend the season even further.

"We're sitting at a really good spot NCAA-wise, with the RPI currently," head coach Matt Mott said. "If we can get on a roll and get some of these wins, it will put us in a really good spot to get to the beach, and hopefully, an NCAA pick."

Three of the Lady Rebels' five matches are on the road, starting in Nashville against Vanderbilt (5-5-5, 2-2-4 SEC) on Friday night.

"Vanderbilt has five ties on the season, which shows you how difficult they are to break down," Mott said. "We have to be ready to create good opportunities on the road against them."

This past weekend, the Lady Commodores split their two match but took two overtimes to decide the outcome in each one. Vanderbilt defeated Arkansas,

3-2, and lost to LSU, 1-0.

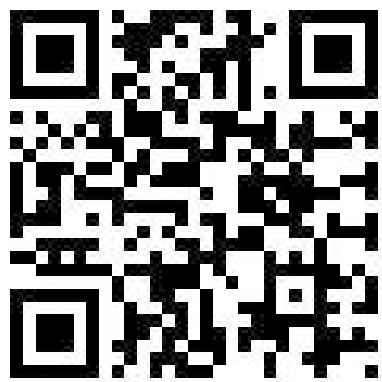
Last season, Vanderbilt came to Oxford and were handed a 3-0 loss by Ole Miss. The Rebels look to have that same success this season, as Vanderbilt has allowed 20 goals through 15 games.

Ole Miss will then turn its attention to South Carolina, which currently sits in last place in the Eastern Division, but defeated Ole Miss 3-0 in last season's match in Oxford.

Mott and his staff saw the re-emergence of the freshman on the team this past weekend, and it was noticed by the SEC, as freshman defender Jessica Hiskey was honored with SEC Freshman of the Week, thanks to her stellar play against Georgia and Kentucky.

Ole Miss will kick off against Vanderbilt on Friday evening at 7 p.m., with Sunday afternoon's match against South Carolina set to begin at noon.

*For continuing coverage of Ole Miss soccer, follow @thedm\_sports and @WildRebel27 on Twitter.*



Follow @theDM\_sports

## Volleyball looks to bounce back on the road

The Lady Rebels take a 2-5 Southeastern Conference record on the road this weekend, where they look to build momentum for the rest of the season.

BY CAMAL PETRO  
cppetro@go.olemiss.edu

After two disappointing matches this past weekend against Kentucky and Arkansas, the Lady Rebels hit the road this weekend to take on Florida Friday night and Georgia Sunday afternoon. Ole Miss (8-8, 2-5 SEC) only won one of the seven sets played this past weekend.

"We had a tough weekend," head coach Joe Getzin said. "We went up against two of the better teams in the conference. We lost 3-0 to Kentucky, who is probably one of the best-performing teams at this point in the season. We turned around on Sunday and went into four sets with Arkansas."

The Gators (13-2, 7-0 SEC) enter Friday night's matchup ranked No. 11 nationally and undefeated at home with a 9-0 record. Senior right-side hitter Tangerine Wiggs and junior middle blocker Chloe Mann lead Florida's offensive attack and are ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in the SEC in hitting percentage, respectively.

"One of their kids is extremely good," Getzin said. "Hopefully, we will get the matchup where we can put our best blocker out on her and make her hit away from us a little bit. A lot of teams have that game plan."

Sophomore outside hitter/right-side hitter Tirah Le'au leads Georgia (9-7, 3-4 SEC) in kills with 165 in 56 sets played, and junior outside hitter Brittany Northcutt has killed 131 balls in 13 fewer sets.

The Bulldogs started the sea-

son 3-0, but they've been up and down since. Getzin called the Georgia game a "must-win" for the Lady Rebels in his weekly press conference on Monday.

"At Georgia, it comes down to serve and pass," Getzin said. "That's something we can be really good at, but at times we struggle. We need to clean that up."

Junior outside hitter Kara Morgan has consistently been the biggest threat on offense for the Lady Rebels this season. She has recorded 179 kills – 3.25 per set – on 499 total attacks. She has 116 more total attacks than senior outside hitter Allegra Wells, who is second on

against Arkansas this past Sunday.

"When you have that kind of imbalance, we're not passing well," Getzin said. "We're not in system. When you're not in system, then it's difficult to distribute the ball to all our hitters."

When it comes down to it, the Rebels look to have better production throughout the team.

"We must continue to improve upon execution at a higher level for a longer period of time," Getzin said. "When you're playing good teams, that's what makes the difference."

Friday's contest will begin at 7 p.m. with Sunday's start time set for 1 p.m.



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# Square Jam kicks off basketball season

The first chance to see Ole Miss basketball this year will be outside, as the men and women will hold an outdoor practice on the Square Friday night.



BY TYLER BISCOFF  
tfbischo@go.olemiss.edu

The Ole Miss basketball teams will begin their seasons in unique fashion. The men’s and women’s teams will hold a practice on the Square Friday night in the first-ever Square Jam.

On the east side of the Square in front of City Hall, a basketball court will be set up along with lights. Square Jam is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m., following the homecoming parade that will start at 5:30 and travel from the Grove to the Square.

Michael Thompson, senior associate athletics director for communications and marketing, helped develop this idea in

late June.

“The Square is so iconic and such a part of Ole Miss and Oxford,” Thompson said. “To do it there with the atmosphere that is on the Square, it’s going to be really awesome.”

Per NCAA rules, basketball teams are allowed to begin practicing on the Friday nearest Oct. 15. One of the reasons for starting practice with Square Jam is to create excitement for the upcoming basketball season.

“Getting people’s minds around basketball when you’re only four or five games into football season has been challenging,” Thompson said.

The athletics department worked with the city to set up this special event.

RIGHT: Senior forward Murphy Holloway

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“Ole Miss is very excited to partner with the City of Oxford for this one-of-a-kind event that will serve as a tipoff to a great hoops season,” athletics director Ross Bjork said in a press release. “This gives us the opportunity to showcase our basketball programs to fans in the greatest college town in America. I would especially like to thank Oxford Mayor Pat Patterson for his help making this event possible.”

According to Patterson, he is always happy to help the university with events.

“I love new ideas,” Patterson said. “I think this is outside of the box. We haven’t tried it before, so let’s try it and see what happens.”

The teams aren’t likely to try to scrimmage among themselves, but instead perform drills.

“You’ll probably see a dunk contest, maybe a three-point contest,” Thompson said. “We’re just trying to make it fun.”

Both teams will sign autographs during the event. Rick Trotter, the in-arena voice of the Memphis Grizzlies, will be the MC. According to Thompson, there will most likely be bleachers for fans to sit in and watch. If it rains Friday night, the event will likely be canceled.

If Square Jam is a success, the university will look to continue it in future years. This year is a particularly good time to try out the event.

“It fell on a football home game weekend,” Thompson said. “It was even better that it fell on Homecoming. We saw a great opportunity to capitalize.”

Both the men’s and women’s teams will begin their regular seasons at home on Friday, Nov. 9. The women will host Southeastern Louisiana at 5:30 p.m., and the men will play Mississippi Valley State at 8 p.m.

*For continuing coverage of Ole Miss basketball, follow @thedm\_sports and @Tyler\_RSR on Twitter.*